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FLICKERS & THE VETS PRESENT: THE "SECRET CINEMA" DATE NIGHT LGBTQ FILM FESTIVAL PREVIEW

*SPECIAL PREVIEW SCREENING KICKS OFF COUNTDOWN TO PRIDE AND
SHOWCASES UPCOMING AUGUST FESTIVAL*

WHAT: The 13th Annual Flickers' "**Secret Cinema Date Night**" LGBTQ Festival Preview (part of the Rhode Island International Film Festival)

WHEN: Friday, **June 10th, 2016**, at 8:00 p.m.

WHERE: The Vets, 1 Avenue of the Arts (with entry at 83 Park Street, rear of the bldg.), Providence, RI

WHO: Flickers' Newport Film Society & Arts Collaborative, creator and producer of the Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF), RI Pride, The Vets, and Bell Street Chapel

HOW MUCH: \$10 suggested donation

(PROVIDENCE, RI) • This year marks the 20th anniversary of **Flickers' Rhode Island International Film Festival** (RIIFF). For the past 13 years during the month of June, Flickers has hosted a sneak peek of its main Festival LGBTQ sidebar. The annual event is called a "**Secret Cinema**" since Flickers' schedule has not yet been officially released. Flickers will donate a portion of the admission fee to local LGBTQ organizations. This marks the third year of the Festival's partnership with The Vets (Veterans Memorial Auditorium) for a special screening in their 6th Floor Ballroom.

The films to be presented at the "**Secret Cinema Date Night**" screening this year represent a diverse collection of newly discovered shorts and feature films chosen from a pool of over 6,000 international submissions to the Festival.

This year's "Secret Cinema" will feature a heartwarming portrait of a transgender man of 50 living in Seattle. The film premiered at the Seattle International Film Festival and explores the difficulties of transitioning late in life. The film features interviews with Dan Savage, Carmen Carrera, Calpernia Addams, and Buck Angel. The feature film will be accompanied by a short subject.

ABOUT PROVIDENCE AND THE GAY COMMUNITY

Providence is among the top LGBT-friendly cities in the country, according to a NerdWallet study. Providence ranked fourth, behind San Francisco, which was first; Portland, Ore., second; and Austin, Texas, third. Baltimore was fifth.

NerdWallet said that in the Providence metro area, 4.4 percent of the population identifies as LGBT, and that in June, the city hosts the annual RI PrideFest. It also notes that the Providence Warwick Convention and Visitors Bureau even has its own "Glambassador," drag queen Haley Star.

"The area also has Pride RI, Youth Pride Inc., ACLU of Rhode Island and other civil rights organizations promoting equal rights and visibility for the local LGBT community," NerdWallet stated.

ABOUT THE FLICKERS' PROVIDENCE LGBTQ FILM FESTIVAL PREVIEW

The annual **Providence LGBTQ Film Festival** is a Flickers' sidebar that showcases cinematic work that reflects all aspects of the LGBTQ experience. Programming will include an expanded focus on the growing social and political awareness of the international transgender community, marginalized LGBTQ youth and an exploration of relationships within the international LGBTQ community. Flickers' programming and community outreach efforts are supported by the Rhode Island Foundation's "Equity Action"; a field of interest fund at the Foundation that advances equitable treatment for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Rhode Island residents.

Flickers' "Secret Cinema" LGBTQ Festival Preview, will be presented this year at The Vets on Friday evening, June 10th. The screening will start at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are available at the door. A \$10 donation is suggested for admission.

Flickers' portion of the proceeds from the Friday night screening will be donated to **Options Magazine**, a non-profit publication of news and events within the Rhode Island LGBTQ community.

For more information, directions and the Festival background: <http://www.film-festival.org/Prov.GLBT.FestPREV16.php>

ABOUT FLICKERS' RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:

FLICKERS' Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF), has secured its place in the global community as the portal for the best in international independent cinema, earning the respect of domestic and foreign filmmakers, filmgoers and trend watchers. RIIFF is widely recognized as a credentialed, industry-friendly launch pad for the work of exceptional emerging talent. This confluence of art and commerce brings together world-class celebrities, award-winning filmmakers, new talent and enthusiastic audience members. Ranked as one of the top 10 Festivals in the United States, RIIFF is also a qualifying festival for the **Narrative, Documentary and Animation Short Film Academy Awards** through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. It was also recently named a **BAFTA** (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) and **Canadian Screen Awards** (Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television)-qualifying Festival. There are only **6 film festivals worldwide** that share this distinction. The Festival takes place this year, August 9-14, 2016. For more information, please visit www.rifilmfest.org.

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